Boomer Township Immigrants from Denmark’s Dronninglund Parish Overview

from Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish, Version 2
access from the Local History area of website bigpigeon.us
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Dronninglund parish lies in the northern part of Denmark’s Jutland peninsula, about 20 miles northeast of Aalborg. (See the Dronninglund area map on page 3.)

Boomer Township is a rural township in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, U.S.A., 10-20 miles north of Council Bluffs. (See the Pottawattamie County Townships map on page 7.)

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maps from Denmark</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps from Pottawattamie County</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of the Boomer Dronninglunders’ Farms</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Composition of the Boomer Dronninglunders</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dronninglund to Boomer Emigration Summary by Year</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources and Acknowledgments</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Families Included in This Set of Reports

(0) – Karen Jensen (came with family (1)) and Christian Bondo (not from Dronninglund)
(1) Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton and Dorthe Marie "Mary" Nielsen
(2) Jens Christian "James" Christensen and Maren "Mary" Christensen
(3) Peter Torgesen Christiansen (not from Dronninglund)
    married daughters of Jens Christian Skaksen (8) & Christian Svendsen (9)
(4) Andrew Jensen and Caroline Jensen
(5) Thomas Christian Jesperesen and Cathrine Madsdatter
    includes Jens Pedersen who married daughter Martine Thomsen
(6) Christian Pedersen/Peterson and Ane Margrete Christensen
(7) Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter
    includes granddaughter Ane Matilda Nielsen who married John Schroder.
(8) Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie "Mary" Madsdatter
(9) Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter
    includes son Mads Peter "M. P." or "Mace" Christiansen
Maps from Denmark

Denmark (courtesy of Google)
Dronninglund parish is centered on the town of Dronninglund, shown on the above map (note the city of Aalborg in the bottom left corner). The town of Dronninglund has a population just over 3,000. The Dronninglund parish church is located at the medieval slot on the west edge of the town of Dronninglund as shown in the parish map on the following page.
Dronninglund Sogn (courtesy of viskort.dk)
Denmark Counties in the Late 19th Century  

A note on the terminology used herein: "Sogn" is the Danish word for parish; "Herred" for district; and "Amt" for county. In the 19th century, Denmark was broken up into counties (amter) for administrative purposes, with the counties broken up into districts (herreder) for military purposes, and the districts broken up into parishes (sogne) for religious purposes. Rural parishes typically contained multiple villages, and each parish had a church, most of which still exist today.

During the period covered herein, the town of Dronninglund was in Dronninglund Sogn, Dronninglund Herred, Hjørring Amt. Hjørring Amt occupied most of northern Jutland north of Aalborg and consisted of around six herreds. Dronninglund Herred consisted of 15 sogne, as shown on the map on the following page. Most of the parishes mentioned herein were in Dronninglund Herred near the town of Dronninglund.
This map shows the different parishes that comprise Dronninglund district.
Boomer Township is in the northwest part of Pottawattamie County north of Council Bluffs. Omaha, Nebraska is across the Missouri River from Council Bluffs.

See the next page for a contemporary map of Boomer Township. For more about township organization in Pottawattamie County, see my report *Boomer and Hazel Dell Townships Overview*. 
The Old Lincoln Highway in the bottom left corner runs north from Council Bluffs and in the 1920s was part of the first paved highway across the United States.

- Pigeon Creek runs through southern Boomer Township.
- The Grange Cemetery is the triangular area in southern Boomer Township near Coldwater Avenue.
- St. Johns Lutheran Church and the old Boomer Township Hall are at the intersection of Coldwater Avenue and Teakwood Road.
- St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & Cemetery and the Old Boomer Store are on Sumac Road west of county road L34.
Locations of the Boomer Dronninglund's Farms

Refer to the list of nine Dronninglund families on page 1 and to the 1900 Boomer Township plat map in my report *Boomer and Hazel Dell Townships Overview*.

Many of the Dronninglunders mentioned herein are buried in the Grange Cemetery in Section 28.

(0) Sections 29 and 30 of southwest Boomer (moved to

(1) Gregers Marcus Poulsen *Acton* and Dorthe Marie "Mary" Nielsen:
The Mary Acton farm - Section 29 in southwest Boomer.

(2) Jens Christian "James" *Christensen* and Maren "Mary" Christensen
The J Christiansen farm - Section 20 in west central Boomer.

(3) Peter Torgesen *Christiansen*
The P Christiansen farm - Sections 9 and 4 in north central Boomer.
The farm of his son, And W Christiansen - Section 11 in northeast Boomer.
The farm of his son-in-law, W Price - Section 28 in south central Boomer.
The farm of his cousin, Axel Christiansen - Section 11 in northeast Boomer.

(4) Andrew *Jensen* and Caroline Jensen
The Andrew Jensen family did not live in Boomer Township until after 1900. I believe they were tenants on the J H Tyler farm (previously the Haines farm and subsequently the Anderson farm) in portions of several sections in southwest Boomer.

(5) Thomas Christian *Jespersen* and Cathrine Madsdatter
Their farm of their son-in-law, Jens Pedersen - Section 5 in northwest Boomer.

(6) Christian *Pedersen/Peterson* and Ane Margrete Christensen
In 1900 their farm, in Sections 16 and 21 of central Boomer, has three owners shown as C Petersen (the parents), G. H Darrington (son-in-law) and W S Peterson (son).

(7) Christen *Skaksen* and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter (deceased before 1900)
Their farm in Sections 29 and 30 of southwest Boomer (previously the Bondo farm) is listed under John Schroder, their granddaughter's husband.

(8) Jens Christian *Skaksen* and Marte Marie "Mary" Madsdatter
See (3) for the farm of their son-in-law, Peter Torgesen Christiansen.
The farm of their son, M Skakson - Section 4 in north central Boomer.

(9) Christian *Svendsen* and Maren Madsdatter
See (3) for the farm of their son-in-law, Peter Torgesen Christiansen.
The farm of their son, M. Christiansen - Section 29 in southwest Boomer.
Family Composition of the Boomer Dronninglunders

Of the nine families sketched here:

- Four (Acton, Christensen, Jensen and Pedersen/Peterson) immigrated with young children. The Pedersen/Peterson family immigrated with her parents and siblings as part of a company of Mormons; see my report *Kirsten Pedersen’s Relatives*.

- Four (Jespersen, Skaksen, Skaksen and Svendsen) immigrated either with adult children or followed their adult children to the United States.

- Peter Torgesen Christiansen was not born in Dronninglund Sogn but his family is included since both of his wives were Dronninglund natives.

- I have not included a report for Karen (Jensen/Hendriksen) Bondo, a Dronninglund native who immigrated to Boomer Township with the Acton family as a teenager. She appears in the Bondo report in my *St. Paul’s Boomer-Neola Early Families*. However, you can access an excerpt herein entitled *When Christian Met Karen*.

Common Danish Roots of the Dronninglund Families:

I believe that most individuals with Dronninglund ancestors who from the Boomer Township area are descended from three couples that remained in Denmark:
Skak Nielsen and Johanne Marie Christensdatter lived in Bollehede in Dronninglund Sogn in the 1834, 1840, 1845 and 1850 censuses.

Skak Nielsen & Johanne Marie Christensdatter \(\leftrightarrow\) remained in Denmark
- Christen Skaksen & Ane Margrethe Christensdatter
  - Maren “Mary” Christensen & Lars Nielsen
  - Anna Matilda Nielsen & John Schroder
- Christen Skak “Skak” Nielsen & Marie Larsen \(\leftrightarrow\) remained in Denmark
  - Maren Johanne “Annie” Nielsen & Andrew Christoffersen
  - Martina Nelson & George Fred Wagner
  - Louise Nielsen & Charles L. Chester
  - Charles Lawrence “Charlie” Nelson & Mabel M. unknown
- Christiane Christensen & Chr. Jensen
  - Christian Jensen
  - unnamed Jensen

Jens Christian Skaksen & Marte Marie “Marie” Madsdatter
- Martha Marie Skaksen & Peter Torgesen Christiansen
  - Andrew Christian “Chris” Christiansen & Trine Marie Jorgensen
  - Tena Marie Christiansen & William Price Jr.
- Karen Marie Skaksen & Christian “Chris” Johnson
  - James C. Johnson* & Minnie Bergen
  - James C. Johnson* & Minnie C. Madsen
  - Martha M. Johnson* & Charles William Jones
  - Martha M. Johnson* & James Elbert Medley
  - Ella Marie Johnson & William H. Ellam
- Mette Margrethe “Gertrude” Skaksen
  - Ane Johanne “Hannah” Skaksen & John Olson
    - Ella May Olson & James M. Jensen
    - Amos Chris Olson & Irene Louise Momsen
    - Clarence E. Olson
    - Louis Alfred Olson & Elsie Christine Sorensen
    - Clara E. Olson
    - Esther Katherine Olson & Herman Zilg Hoyer
    - Ethel Jenny/Jane Olson & Dale Thurston Smith
    - Bertha Christine Olson
  - Skak Martinus “Martinus” Skaksen & Mary C. Jorgensen
    - Mamie A. Skaksen & Charles Duncan

- A granddaughter, Martha Marie Skaksen, was the first wife of Peter Torgesen Christiansen of Boomer Township.
- A great-granddaughter, Anna Matilda Nielsen, was the wife of John Schroder of Boomer Township.
Mads Andersen and Anna Margrethe Hansdatter lived in Dronninglund Sogn in the 1834, 1840, 1845, 1850 and 1860 censuses.

Mads Andersen & Anna Margrethe Hansdatter ← remained in Denmark
Maren Madsdatter & Christian Svendsen
Ane Christiansen & Martin Kjeldgaard
Ane Margrethe Christiansen & Peter Torgesen Christiansen
Mads Peter “Mace” Christiansen & Pauline Marie “Lena” Jensen
Marte Marie “Marie” Madsdatter & Jens Christian Skaksen
Martha Marie Skaksen & Peter Torgesen Christiansen
Karen Marie Skaksen & Christian “Chris” Johnson
Mette Margrethe “Gertrude” Skaksen
Ane Johanne “Hannah” Skaksen & John Olson
Skak Martinus “Martinus” Skaksen & Mary C. Jorgensen
Cathrine Trine Madsdatter & Thomas Christian Jespersen
Mette Marie “Marie” Thomsen & Jens Laurits Thomsen
Ane Margrethe “Margaret” Thomsen & Jens Nelson
Martine Thomsen & Jens Pedersen
Christine “Stine” Thomsen & Peter C. Madsen

● A granddaughter, Ane Margrethe Christiansen, was the second wife of Peter Torgesen Christiansen of Boomer Township.

● A grandson, Mads Peter Christiansen, was the second husband of Pauline Marie "Lena" (Jensen) Sanderson of Boomer Township.

● A granddaughter, Martine Thomsen, was the wife of Jens Pedersen of Boomer Township.
**Peder Nielsen** lived in Fladkjær, Dronninglund Sogn in the 1834, 1840 and 1845 censuses. His wife, **Maren Christensdatter**, died in 1812 (Peder subsequently remarried).

**Peder Nielsen & Maren Christensdatter** remained in Denmark
- Niels Peder Pedersen & Johanne Pedersen
- Peter B. Nelson & Bertha Christina Aagard
- Peder Christian Nielsen
- Mariane “Mary Ann” Pedersen & Andrew Rasmus Anderson
- Niels Nielsen & Maren Christensen
- Ane Kirstine Nielsen
- Anne Christine Pedersen* & Niels Peter Peterson
- Anne Christine Pedersen* & Christian Anderson Kolby
- Anne Marie Pedersen & Oluf Christian Larsen
- Christiane Pedersen & William Powell
- Anders Nielsen

**Ane Katrine Pedersen & Christen Andersen**
- Ane Margrete Christensen & Christian Peterson
- Peter Christian Anderson Sr.* & Kirsten Marie “Christina” Jacobsen
- Peter Christian Anderson Sr.* & Christina Nielsen
- Maren “Mary” Christensen* & Anders Christian Pedersen
- Maren “Mary” Christensen* & Jens Christian “James” Christensen
- Christine Anderson & Anders Jorgen Mortensen
- Ane Marie Anderson & Jens Christian Nielsen
- Niels Christian Anderson
- Else Marie Anderson

**Kirsten Pedersen* & Jens Nielsen**
- Maren Kirstine Jensen

**Kirsten Pedersen* & Jens Christian Hendriksen**
- Anders Henry Johnson* & Trina unknown
- Anders Henry Johnson* & Julia Otellia Bensen/Dorius
- Karen M. “Carrie” Jensen & Laurits Christian Fog “L.C.” Bondo
- Else Marie “Alice” Johnson* & John Almon Caufield
- Else Marie “Alice” Johnson* & Maxy B. Short
- Johanne Cathrine Johnson & John Lauk Timerman

**Kirsten Pedersen* & John Erik Forsgren**

- A granddaughter, Ane Margrete Christensen, married Christian Peterson in Denmark. immigrated with a Mormon company in 1855, and Christian and Ane Margrete Peterson became early Danish settlers in Boomer Township in 1868.

- A granddaughter, Maren “Mary” Christensen, married Jens Christian Christensen in Denmark, immigrated in 1872 to Council Bluffs, and later moved to Boomer Township.

- A granddaughter, Karen M. Jensen, came to Boomer Township with the Acton family in 1868, married Laurits Christian Bondo, and moved from Boomer to Hazel Dell Township in 1872.
Known connections between families:

- Jens Christian Christensen (family 2) was employed by Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton (family 1) in Denmark.

- Christen Skaksen and Jens Christian Skaksen (families 7 and 8) were brothers. They were born in Dronninglund Sogn, the first and seventh of eight known children of Skak Nielsen and Johanne Marie Christensdatter.

- Cathrine Trine Madsdatter (Mrs. Thomas Christian Jespersen, family 5) Marte Marie Madsdatter (Mrs. Jens Christian Skaksen, family 8), and Maren Madsdatter (Mrs. Christian Svendsen, family 9) were sisters. They were born in Dronninglund Sogn to Mads Andersen and Anne Margrethe Hansdatter.

- Maren Christensen, a daughter of Christen Skaksen (family 7) married Lars Nielsen. Lars and Maren were the parents of Anna Matilda Nielsen, who married John Schroder. Anna’s other grandfather was Niels Jespersen, who remained in Denmark and was the brother of Thomas Christian Jespersen (family 5).

- Peter Torgesen Christiansen of Boomer Township (family 3) was married twice, with both wives born in Dronninglund. Peter T. Christiansen’s first wife, Martha Marie Jensen, who died in 1872, was the daughter of Jens Christian Skaksen and Martha Marie Madsdatter (family 8). His second wife, Ane Margrethe Christiansen, was the daughter of Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter (family 9). His two wives were first cousins, their mothers being sisters.

- The Acton family (family 1) brought Karen M. Jensen (When Christian Met Karen) to Boomer Township.

- Ane Margrethe Christensen (family 6) and Maren “Mary Christensen (family 2) were sisters and were first cousins of Karen M. Jensen (When Christian Met Karen).
Dronninglund to Boomer Emigration Summary by Year

A list by emigration year of those in my St. Paul’s database from Dronninglund.

1855
❖ Christian Petersen/Peterson and Ane Margrete Christensen and their first two children.
   Immigrated to Missouri with her parents in a company of Mormons.
   Lived in Kansas and Nebraska before moving to Boomer Township in 1868.
   The Christian Peterson farm was near the Boomer Township Hall in Section 21 and was later owned by his son-in-law, George Darrington and then by Floyd Ochampaugh.

1867
❖ Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton and Dorthe Marie Nielsen and their seven children.
   The Acton’s hired girl, Karen M. Jensen, later Mrs. Christian Bondo.
   The Acton farm in Section 29 was later owned by Julius Schroder and then by Julius’ son, Dale Schroder.

1871
❖ Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie Madsdatter and their four or five children.
   Their first grandchild, Andrew Christian Christiansen.
   Their oldest daughter, Martha, married Peter Torgesen Christiansen soon after arrival.
   Their future son-in-law, Peter Torgesen Christiansen, a native of Hørby Sogn.
   The Peter Torgesen Christiansen farm was in Section 4, as was the Skaksen farm.

1872
❖ Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter.
   Their granddaughter, Anna Matilda Nielsen, later Mrs. John Schroder.
   The Skaksens bought the Christian Bondo farm in Section 30, which later became the John Schroder farm and around 1953 the Clyde Peters farm.
   Their son-in-law and daughter, Chr. Jensen and Christiane Christensen, and two grandchildren. (Chr. and Christiane Jensen and their children probably didn’t settle in Boomer Township.)
❖ Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen and their three children.
   (Jens Christian Christensen was the Acton’s hired man in Dronninglund in 1860.)
   Their farm in Section 20 later became the farm of their son, Frank Christensen, and then the Ronald Vorthmann farm.

1874
❖ Ane Margrethe Christiansen, who married the widower Peter Torgesen Christiansen soon after arrival.

1879
Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter, parents of Ane Margrethe Christiansen who immigrated in 1874 and married Peter Torgesen Christiansen.

Their niece, Martine Thomsen, later Mrs. Jens Pedersen.
The Jens Pedersen farm in Section 5 was later owned by several of his children and then by Donald and Ethel (Bertelsen) Ward, Ethel being a granddaughter of Jens and Martine Pedersen. However, my great-uncle, N. C. A. Johnson, bought a portion of this farm around 1910.

Andrew Jensen and Caroline Jensen and four children.
Jens Anderson, age 8 (I have no knowledge of this child).
I believe that Andrew Jensen farmed the Haines/Tyler farm in Section 33 from before 1905 to after 1917. This farm later became the J. D. Anderson/Don Anderson/Jay Anderson farm.

1882
Lars Nielsen, a native of Albæk Sogn and the father of Anna Matilda Nielsen who immigrated in 1872.
Maren Nielsen, mother of Anna Matilda Nielsen, and three of her daughters.
The Nielsen family immigrated from Hellevad Sogn in two separate parties, in February/March (father) and in June (mother and three daughters), probably lived in the Boomer Township area for a few years, and then settled in Council Bluffs. See the Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter report.

about 1882
Mads Peter Christiansen, brother of Ane Margrethe Christiansen, who had married Peter Torgesen Christiansen.
Mads married Pauline Marie "Lena" Jensen, the widow of John Sanderson, in 1883. The John Sanderson/widow Lena Sanderson/Mads Christiansen farm in Section 29 later became the Otto Lehmkuhl/Emil Lehmkuhl farm. It is now rural residential.

1883
Asker Askersen.

1884
Thomas Christian Jespersen and Catherine Madsdatter and their youngest child.
Parents of Martine Thomsen, who immigrated in 1879 and married Jens Pedersen.
Sources and Acknowledgments
for Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish
by Robert A. Christiansen, updated Jul ’18

In the summer of 2007 my dear wife, Martha, and I spent 19 days in Denmark exploring the areas from which my eight great-grandparents emigrated in the late 1800s. While driving to Voergaard, we stopped at the Dronninglund church. I told the church receptionist that I was studying the early history of an area in the United States where several families from Dronninglund had settled. The receptionist then arranged a visit with a local Dronninglund historian. Since the local historian did not speak English and I do not speak Danish, we met in the Dronninglund library with the librarian serving as translator. The local historian expressed an interest in learning the names of the Dronninglund emigrants that I knew.

Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish Timeline
2014 Printed copy of Version 1 left at Dronninglund Library.
2017 Report file ported to my new website, bigpigeon.us.
2018 Version 2 - major changes include splitting original report file into components, one report file for each family.

This project now consists of eleven .docx/.pdf files accessed from my website, bigpigeon.us. The immediate source for my data is my St. Paul’s database, containing data for over 39,000 individuals with family connections to early rural northwestern Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

In my research for this report I used the following on-line and printed sources:

- I heavily use the subscription service ancestry.com, especially for United States census records through 1940, for family histories, and for city directories. As time passes, Ancestry is beginning to acquire more and more vital records (births, marriages and deaths) for various states in the U.S.A.

- I find a surprising amount of information through Google.

- For research in Denmark, I use ddd.dda.dk to access census and immigration records.

- I obtained much of my earlier data from the LDS web site familysearch.org and have recently begun to reuse it for information on Danish births and marriages.

- For Pottawattamie County, Iowa:
  - I use Pottawattamie County marriage and cemetery books published by the Botna Valley Genealogical Society and Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society.
• Marriage books currently go through 1940 and there is an on-line index through 1940 at rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iapcgs.
• Cemetery books are incomplete because they don't include recent burials or individuals who lack gravestones.

- There are Pottawattamie County bibliographic histories from 1883, 1891, 1907 and 1978 but these generally lack entries for immigrants.
- The Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society library in Council Bluffs has some family histories, as well as most of the printed materials listed here.

As of 2014, the key older atlases are available on-line to anyone with a suitable browser, sometimes in multiple locations. These atlases contain township plats showing land ownership, and with most farmstead locations marked.
• The 1885 Allen Pottawattamie County atlas:
digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/ref/collection/atlases/id/6802
• The 1902 Ogle Pottawattamie County atlas, which appears to be identical to the 1900 Innes atlas:
historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/9274/Pottawattamie+County+1902
• The 1913 Bee atlas, which includes some surrounding counties:
historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/8559/Mills+and+Pottawattamie+Counties+1913
• The 1919 Anderson Pottawattamie County atlas (the 1930 Hixson atlas appears to have been copied from the same source):

- Selected issues of the Council Bluffs, Iowa Nonpareil for the 1940s and 1950s, are available on-line to ancestry.com subscribers.

- I use other on-line sites which list burial information, especially findagrave.com, but also billiongraves.com and iowagravestones.org.

**Here are some of the individuals who helped with this project:**
• My dear cousins, Richard and Kathy Torneten, hosted me on many visits to the Council Bluffs area.
• Derald Blois, his wife, Gladys, and sister-in-law, Arlene Driver, continue to be my main contemporary sources for information about Boomer Township history.
• Willie and Stella Witt mentored me about Boomer Township history before Willie's untimely death.
• The wonderful volunteers at the Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society in Council Bluffs were always helpful.
Robert Randall Jr., my second cousin once removed, left this report at the Dronninglund library in June 2014.

Friends and relatives who are descendants of the Boomer Dronninglunders provided most of the family lists that appear herein. I especially want to thank:

- The late Thelma (Schroder) Larson Jensen, my aunt by marriage and the great great granddaughter of Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter.
- Joan (Minor) Eggerss, a childhood friend and the great-granddaughter of Peter T. Christiansen and great-great-granddaughter of Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie Madsdatter.
- Dale Schroder, the great-grandson of Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter and the great-great-grandson of Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie Madsdatter.
- Louise (Christiansen) Ward, the great-granddaughter of Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter. Years ago, Louise was especially helpful by sending me handwritten materials.
- Ethel (Bertelsen) Ward, my fifth-grade teacher and the great-granddaughter of Thomas Christian Jespersen and Catherine Madsdatter.
- Mary Lou (Gano) Burke, the step great-great-granddaughter of Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter, provided research on the Christian Bondo / John Sanderson land holdings in Boomer Township. This land later became the nucleus for the Jens Christian Skaksen (later John Schroder) and Mads C. Christiansen farms.
- In 2018, Kevin Jones provided information on the family of Christian “Chris” Johnson and Karen Marie Skaksen.

Here are some miscellaneous on-line sources:

- The map headed Pottawattamie County Townships is courtesy of IAGenWeb.org.
- To find localities in Dronninglund parish: http://www.gomapper.com/travel/list-of-cities-near/dronninglund.html
- For the data in section (6) on the Peter Herbert Peterson family, I am indebted to rjg761, who placed a database entitled Sanborn Upload 20081025 in ancestry.com.

For the appendix When Christian Met Karen, additional sources included:

- Bondo family historians, namely my second cousins Elaine (Bondo) Hoyer and Alvina (Larsen) Hjortsvang and their second cousins Paul Christoffersen and Don Pedersen.